

Devon More Music presents... *Berlin Waltz*

***Berlin Waltz* is a one-woman multimedia Cold War Cabaret.** Using a loop pedal and an assortment of instruments (electric guitar, flute, glockenspiel, hand percussion - along with beatboxing and vocal harmonies), **Devon More** layers together a **hypnotic soundtrack** while using **slam poetry**, true personal **stories**, original **songs**, and sock puppet **history** lessons to explore the **Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall** backed by an **atmospheric** silent film projecting **media** and images of Berliner scenes, street art, and DDR military parades.

This true story follows Devon to Berlin, as a small town Canadian spy-novel addict with **Wanderlust**. In an attempt to make sense of the city's seemingly contradictory history, she sets out on her **bicycle** to retrace the **160km route** of the former Berlin Wall. Instead of concrete answers, she finds that a Parade of **Progress** has virtually erased the scar of the once impenetrable Wall.

As a Capitalist-by-birth, she is forced to reevaluate her own **bias** and examine the **impact** of The (victorious) **West** on Berlin's rapidly changing cityscape in relation to the collective mindset of The (socialist) **East** when she befriends an East Berliner named Angelika. Growing up behind the Wall as a teenaged national-level athlete (ie. budding foot soldier on the **Cold War's** unofficial battlefield of Sport), Angel enjoys some privilege; but when her older sister's outspoken free-thinking attracts the attention of the **Stasi**, her family is forced to face discrepancies in East Germany's interpretation of their People's Paradise.

From within a Cold War context, *Berlin Waltz* uses the concrete example of the Wall and the analog espionage of the Stasi secret police to explore **modern parallel issues of socioeconomic barriers, online privacy, and digital surveillance**. Finally, and most importantly, *Berlin Waltz* aims to **inspire and empower an Active Citizenry** by illuminating both significant individuals and the masses behind 1989's incredible **People's Revolution**. It is also an ode to the **Power of Art** - and the unexpected role artists ultimately played in preserving a significant original section of the Wall.

Notes from Creator/Performer Devon More

Living as an expat in Berlin from 2008-2012 during my formative years as an artist had a deep and lasting impact in defining my purpose, priorities, and politics as an artist. I repatriated to North America at a time when the Syrian refugee crisis was revealing countless "invisible" walls in our global village, "socialism" was basically a swear word, and

Edward Snowden's whistleblowing confirmed that internal surveillance was standard practice by governments of the most "free" countries in the world - including Canada. It was a shocking reintroduction to "home", and I was frustrated by what I felt were dramatically ignorant public policy errors - and the apparent apathy of those affected by them.

Berlin Waltz was created in an attempt to share the lessons I learned from living in the microcosm of Berlin, where the fallout of political and economic ideologies can be felt on the level of a single human's experience - and where people understand and respect both their Power and their Responsibility as members of an Active Citizenry. It was my attempt to **empower ordinary people to think and act together for the collective better** in order to achieve seemingly impossible positive change. In years since it premiered, the format of Berlin Waltz has been refined, and its commentary continues to evolve in order to touch on current events - but I believe its core message has become no less timely, topical, or indeed necessary.

Production History

- *Berlin Waltz* was performed at Fringe Festivals in **London, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, and Nanaimo** (2015-2017).
- *Berlin Waltz* was presented by Friday Night Live in **North Vancouver** (2017), by Shuswap Theatre at their Theatre on the Edge Festival in **Salmon Arm** (2016), and by **Merritt LIVE! Theatre Society** (2016).
- From 2017-2018, *Berlin Waltz* was adapted for student audiences and toured to 14 high schools across the province of British Columbia.

*"This show is a **work of art**."* -[CJLO Montreal](#) (2017)

*"Berlin Waltz is a **masterful blend of musical storytelling**."*
-[Plank Magazine](#) (2016)

*"More's *Berlin Waltz* stands as a **love letter to a city, an intimate encounter between biography and history, and also, a call for action**."* -[Joyful Magpies](#) (2015)

- Runner Up for **Mainline Creativity Award** at Montreal Fringe Frankie Awards: 2017
- Playwrights Theatre Centre **New Play Prize** shortlist: 2016
- **Best Creative Concept** nominee: Calgary Theatre Critics Awards 2015